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William J. Montford, III

February 13, 2006

Florida Department of Education
John L. Winn, Commissioner
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Commissioner Winn:

Leon County Schools is a strong advocate of using an individual student growth component to determine "Adequate Yearly Progress" within the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) program. Leon County Schools is glad to support DOE's pilot to include it's specific "Growth Model" as a third, fair and accurate, way schools and districts can meet AYP criteria under NCLB. DOE's proposal provides schools and districts with an additional method to meet AYP by use of a "trajectory" model. The major advantage of this proposal is that it credits schools for those students' performances that are "on track" to meet proficiency. It does so still supporting the goals that all students are included in the assessment and accountability systems and will be proficient by 2013 – 14. An important additional benefit is that it increases the alignment of Florida's *A+ Plan* and the federal *No Child Left Behind* program. Leon County Schools is supportive of this proposal that will provide the flexibility to make NCLB more effective.

If there is an additional way that Leon County Schools can assist supporting this proposal, we will be glad to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Montford, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent part.

William J. Montford, III